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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,393	07/10/2001	Robert K. Meine	10002069-1	9018

7590 08/15/2005

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/902,393	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MEINE, ROBERT K.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Jonathan Ouellette	<b>Art Unit</b> 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
2. **Claims 1-6, 9-13, 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Roh et al. (US 6,393,848 B2).**
3. As per **independent Claims 1, 10, and 18**, Roh discloses a computer readable medium [community interface system, method] including instructions executable by a processor based device usable by a community of users (C3 L55-65; C5 L16-30, memo transferring functions among members of a family), said computer readable medium comprising: code for receiving information relating to at least one member of said community of users (C9 L23-47, memo information and schedule information); and code for providing information on a display panel of said processor based device (C9 L23-47, displayed on LCD), wherein at least a portion of said information provided is a subset of an array of information comprised of a plurality of subsets, wherein each subset is associated with a particular member of said community, and wherein said subset provided depends upon identifying information provided by said user (C9 L23-47, family member specific memo information and schedule information).

4. Roh fails to expressly disclose code for registering a plurality of members of said community with said device, wherein registering a member includes storing identifying information relating to the member; code for querying a user for stored identifying information.
5. However, Roh does disclose a verification process for a person requesting the input/output of information (C7 L29-48). Roh also disclosed wherein the automated refrigerator system is used to send messages between family members (C9 L26-34).
6. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a user (community user) registration step as part of the verification process disclosed by Roh, wherein the system verifies the authorization of the user based on the registered user information, for the advantage of providing a method/system/computer readable medium of providing a community interface, with the ability to increase system effectiveness and security by maintaining records of authorized users.
7. As per Claims 2, 11, and 19, Roh discloses wherein at least a portion of said information provided relates to more than one member of said community (C9 L26-34, family members).
8. As per Claims 3 and 12, Roh discloses wherein said information relating to more than one member of said community includes a first quantum of information relating to a member of said community and a second quantum of information relating to another member of said community (C9 L23-47, family member specific memo information and schedule information).

9. As per Claim 4, Roh discloses wherein said information provided on said display panel includes appointment information (C9 L23-47, schedule information).
10. As per Claim 5, Roh discloses wherein said subset includes messages information (C9 L23-47, memo information).
11. As per Claim 6, Roh discloses wherein said messages information includes electronic mail (Fig.2, C5 L16-30).
12. As per Claims 9 and 16, Roh discloses wherein said processor based device includes a coupling mechanism for securing the processor-based device to an appliance (C2 L9-25).
13. As per Claim 13, Roh discloses wherein said portable processor based device further comprises means for accessing executable code stored on a memory module, said executable code facilitating said receiving of said information and said providing of said information (C7 L29-48, system program for facilitating input/output messages).
14. As per Claim 15, Roh discloses wherein said system is operable to be communicatively coupled to a second processor-based device so as to form a network (Fig. 1, Internet connection to PC or telephone).
15. As per Claim 17, Roh discloses wherein said device includes means for outputting audio signals to an audio device (Fig. 1, speaker).
16. **Claims 7, 8, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roh in view of ICL ("ICL: The fridge that goes shopping for you." Presswire, February 12, 1999).**
17. As per Claim 7, Roh does disclose maintaining food inventory information (C7 L55-61) and accessing information over the Internet (C5 L1-3, C7 L55-61); however, Roh does

not expressly disclose wherein said information provided on said display panel includes shopping information.

18. However, ICL disclose an automated refrigerator system (Screenfridge), which allows the user to compile a shopping list and send the list to a supermarket (pg. 1, paragraphs 2-3).
19. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein said information provided on said display panel includes shopping information, as disclosed by Ogasawara in the system disclosed by ICL, for the advantage of providing a method/system/computer readable medium of providing a community interface, with the ability to increase system effectiveness and customer service by allowing users to maintain refrigerator inventories.
20. As per Claims 8, 14, and 20, Roh does disclose using several peripherals for inputting data into the system (C9 L35-41, keyboard, camera, microphone, touch panel, pen); however, Roh fails to expressly disclose wherein said code for receiving information includes code for receiving information from a scanning device.
21. ICL discloses a refrigerator computer system can receive information from a barcode scanner (pg. 1, paragraph 3).
22. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included wherein said code for receiving information includes code for receiving information from a scanning device, as disclosed by ICL in the system disclosed by Ruh, for the advantage of providing a method/system/computer readable medium of providing a community interface, with the ability to increase system

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effectiveness and efficiency by allowing users to input data through a multitude of peripherals.

***Conclusion***

23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

24. The following foreign patent is cited to show the best foreign prior art found by the examiner:

**Japanese Pat. No. JP02000241067A to Kobayashi**

Kobayashi discloses automated refrigerator system, with a liquid crystal panel for indicating the name, quantity, receiving date, appreciation time limit or the like, of articles in a refrigerator.

25. Additional Literature has been referenced on the attached PTO-892 form, and the Examiner suggests the applicant review these documents before submitting any amendments.

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.

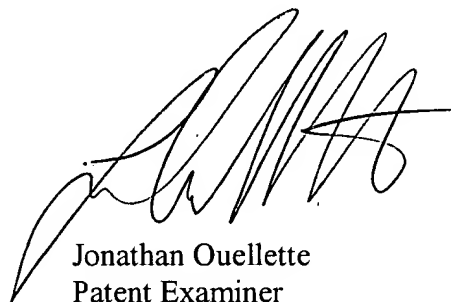
27. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.

28. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (703) 308-1202.

August 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Ouellette', is written over the printed name and title.

Jonathan Ouellette  
Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 3600